

### Welcome to the June Edition of the BioSense Bulletin

Since our last update, the BioSense Team has been preparing for the conference season and increasing opportunities to interact with our stakeholders.

Usability testing of the BioSense webpage has been completed and we have made comprehensive changes and updates based upon your feedback. Also during this period, the BioSense Data Analysis Team presented a demo of the award-winning Influenza Data Summary prototype in Washington, DC.



### BREAKING NEWS

Dr. Robert Martin was recently named Acting Director of the Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response, a position previously held by Lynn Steele who has moved to the CDC Financial Management Office. Dr. Martin has had a long and distinguished career in public health and has been at CDC since 1999. He will be performing a dual role, as the Acting Division Director, and continuing his role as the Acting Director of the National Center for Public Health Informatics (NCPHI) until the new permanent NCPHI Director, Dr. Leslie Lenert, joins CDC in late July.

### BioSpotlight

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dr. Jerry Tokars and Peter Hicks presented the Influenza Data Summary prototype to the SAS Demo Showcase and accepted the SAS Enterprise Intelligence Award on behalf of the BioSense Data Analysis Team and our colleagues in CDC's Influenza Division.

The team received the award for developing an Influenza Data Summary prototype which collates information received from sources such as BioSense, the Sentinel Provider System, the World Health Organization's Laboratory Reporting System, and State and Territorial reports then analyzes the data and presents it in a variety of views or "dashboards".

We anticipate that the Influenza Data Summary prototype will be available to CDC users and state public health departments through the CDC Secure Data Network portal as a module within the BioSense application in fall 2007 for use in the 2007 – 2008 Influenza season.



Demo of Influenza Data Summary Prototype by Peter Hicks



Dr. Tokars and Other SAS Showcase Participants

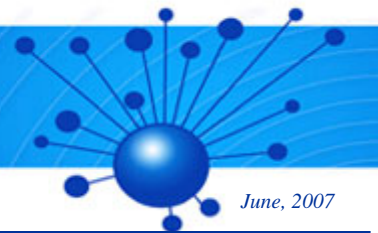


Dr. Tokars accepts the SAS Enterprise Intelligence Award from Jim Davis, SAS CMO



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### BioBytes

#### BioSense Training Needs Assessment

As the BioSense program has been updated and enhanced, training needs both for new and experienced users have grown. Not long ago, we launched a training needs assessment. During recent state webinars, users identified the need for self-paced online learning tools to complement the existing moderator hosted webinars. More frequent trainings have been requested to address the various experience levels that have developed over time. Needs assessment findings have also indicated that training which addresses complex features and new functionalities of the BioSense application would be beneficial.

New training materials will focus on competencies related to BioSense features. We shall be implementing new ideas including a series of tip sheets for specific topics with interactive scenario based training on new features in subsequent application releases. The first scheduled tip sheet and interactive training will address the patient re-linker feature of the BioSense application.

If you have suggestions for training materials you would like to see, please email your ideas to [biosenseusers@cdc.gov](mailto:biosenseusers@cdc.gov). We will be sharing more about the training needs assessment, results, and plans in the coming months, so stay tuned!

#### BIOSTATS

BioSense continues to grow. There are now 371 hospitals sending data to BioSense. During May and June, eight new facilities went live, one in Oregon and seven in Texas.

#### CONTACT US

Please use this [email link](#) to contact us if you have any comments or questions regarding the BioSense

#### BioSense Roundtable Series

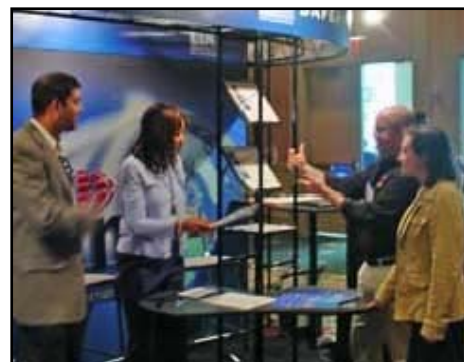
CDC, in collaboration with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), hosted the first in a series of three roundtables on June 19, 2007 in Washington, D.C. The purpose of these roundtable forums is to hear recommendations from individual experts for advancing the BioSense Program through improved communication, collaboration and coordination among health agencies, medical-professional organizations and other stakeholders.

Roundtable participants will represent a broad array of public health and information technology professionals from state, local and federal levels. It is expected that participants will be senior leaders with a background in biosurveillance and/or information technology.

Two additional roundtables will be scheduled for later in the year.

#### BioSense Exhibits at CSTE Conference

BioSense exhibited at the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) annual conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey, June 24-28, 2007 in partnership with the Public Health Informatics Network (PHIN). Many members of CSTE had the opportunity to learn the latest information about BioSense and interact with expert staff from the program. Check out the next Bulletin for more details about the CSTE conference.

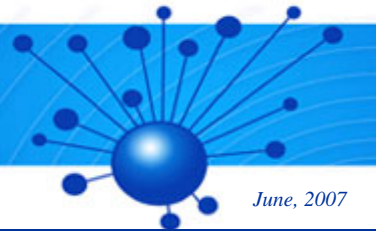


Jay Jones talks to CSTE Conference participants about BioSense and PHIN.



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### BioBytes cont.

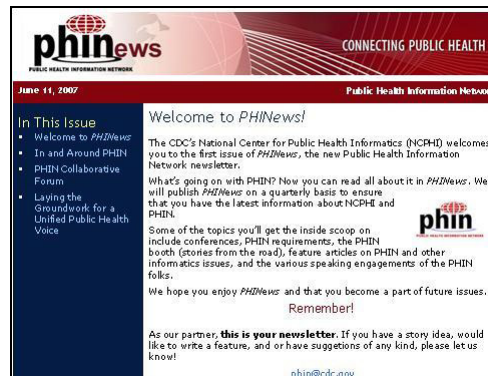
#### PHINews Released

In June 2007, the Public Health Information Network (PHIN) released the first issue of *PHINews*, a quarterly e-newsletter highlighting PHIN activities and providing articles on the larger public health informatics world. The first issue featured articles on the new PHIN Collaborative Forum and the 2007 Joint Public Health Informatics Meeting. For more information, email PHIN at [PHIN@cdc.gov](mailto:PHIN@cdc.gov).

#### BioQuestion

We have added a new feature to the Bulletin. In our ongoing effort to provide content that you like in the way that you like it, we will pose a voluntary question in each Bulletin. This issue's question is below. Simply click on the link below and provide your response.

[BioQuestion](#)



### BioSchedule

#### ○ BioSense Training and Orientation Sessions

##### ○ Monday, July 9, 2007, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

URL to join session:

<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/cdc/join?id=2TQT4S&role=attend&pw=r6%3C%27z%2B%7E%5C>

Audio Conferencing (Toll-free): +1 (866) 756-5589

Participant Code: 2229244

##### ○ Monday, July 23, 2007, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

URL to join session:

<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/cdc/join?id=QDS2D4&role=attend&pw=r6%3C%27z%2B%7E%5C>

Audio Conferencing (Toll-free): +1 (866) 756-5589

Participant Code: 2229244

#### ○ Upcoming Conferences

##### ○ National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Columbus, OH – July 11 – 13, 2007

<http://www.naccho.org/>

##### ○ Public Health Information Network

Atlanta, GA – August 29, 2007

[www.cdc.gov/phinf](http://www.cdc.gov/phinf)



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